

Viola lithion N. Holmgren & P. Holmgren**ROCK VIOLET**

FAMILY: *Violaceae*, the violet family.

STATUS:

Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G1 S1

USFWS/ESA: species of concern. **STATE OF NEVADA:** none. **BLM:** Special Status Species in Nevada.

USFS: Humboldt-Toiyabe NF Sensitive Species. **NNNPS:** watch list.

POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA): **3 occurrences mapped** at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, **OR 5 occurrences mapped** at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated **individuals 20,000+**, total estimated **area 26.3 ha (65.0 ac)**.

TREND: unknown.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA): No summary available (see references).

INVENTORY EFFORT (NEVADA): Surveys have been fairly extensive, but substantial potential habitat may remain unexamined. Most recent entered survey 1996, average year of last survey 1996.

Years since last entered survey (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **0-5 yrs:** 100%.

LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA) in decreasing predominance: designated wilderness, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, private lands (?).

RANGE: Elko, Nye, and White Pine counties, Nevada; also in UT. In Nevada known only from the White Pine and Pilot ranges. Maximum Nevada **range dimension 4.0 km (2.5 mi)** excluding most disjunct record.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA): 7840-10480 feet (2390-3194 meters).

HABITAT (NEVADA): Seasonally wet crevices in steep carbonate or quartzite outcrops in shaded northeast-facing avalanche chutes and cirque headwalls in the subalpine conifer zone with *Symphoricarpos oreophilus*, *Ribes montigenum*, *Heuchera rubescens*, *Aquilegia scopulorum*, *Thalictrum fendleri*, *Pinus flexilis*, *Populus tremuloides*, etc.

PHENOLOGY: flowering late-spring to summer. Range of most frequent **survey months:** June-July.

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: perennial herb.

DESCRIPTION: A perennial herb, 0.5-1.5 dm tall, with egg-shaped or triangular leaves. Flower petals are blue to pale violet, yellow at their bases, and with purple lines. In bloom from June to August.

PHOTOGRAPHS: none known.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Holmgren (1992).

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

Holland, R. F. 1997. Current knowledge and conservation status of *Viola lithion* Holmgren and Holmgren, the rock violet, in Nevada. Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program, DRAFT status report prepared for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno.

Holmgren, N. H. 1992. Two new species of *Viola* (Violaceae) from the Intermountain West, U. S. A. *Brittonia* 44: 300-305.
